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Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Cover: Swainson's Warbler in Baltimore County. Photo by Bill Hilgartner.



## SWAINSON'S WARBLER CAUGHT AND BANDED IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

BARBARA M. ROSS

On Tuesday morning, May 24, 1983 at approximately 10:30, I caught a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) during my daily banding routine on the Saint Timothy's School property off Greenspring Avenue in Baltimore County.

Checking the nets with me were Glenda and Ray Weber and their baby son, Jeremy, on Ray's back in a baby carrier. The bird was hanging upside down in the net pocket. Philadelphia Vireo or Warbling Vireo ran through my mind. But when I removed the bird and examined it more closely, I thought Worm-eating Warbler, and yet that wasn't right. Ray whipped out his copy of *Birds of North America*, flipped over the pages and pointed to the picture of the Swainson's Warbler. I was speechless. It could not be possible. But that is exactly what it was.

This bird was given band #970-09204, had a 74 mm. wing cord, a 54 mm. tail and a trace of fat. The distinctive feature was its very unusual, large, flesh-colored bill, very high at the base. It had a lovely, delicate, lemon yellow wash over the breast. The cap was an unusual rusty shade, warm in color but not bright. The rest of the plumage was smooth and subdued in color. Although drab, the subtle coloration was beautiful. The legs were a pale fleshy tone. The bird was very calm and quiet, as if it knew it was very unusual and willing to have everyone see it.

I did a banding demonstration that morning for the Irvine Nature Center and that lucky class saw the Swainson's Warbler. Fred Arnold, Bill Hilgartner, volunteer leaders, teachers and parents, my husband, Alan Ross and friends, Susan and Jim Tonascia also saw the bird.

According to my notes, there was a northwest wind that day. It was cool and somewhat overcast. Also according to my notes, we had had three days of rain the previous weekend. It was wet, almost swampy, where I caught the bird.

On the evening of the 24th, I alerted Bob Ringler and the word spread. Several people saw a singing Swainson's Warbler where I had released the bird, but no one could ever see the legs to check if it were the banded bird. Bill Hilgartner saw a singing Swainson's Warbler Saturday morning, May 28 and I believe he was the last person to see the bird. The next day, Sunday, it rained again.

308 Thornhill Road,  
Baltimore, Md. 21212

# THE SEASON



## SPRING MIGRATION-MARCH 1-MAY 31, 1983

Robert F. Ringler

This spring was one of the wettest on record. Precipitation was above normal in all three months. The following monthly totals will give an idea of just how wet it was:

Station	Precipitation in Inches					Record from
	March	April	May	Total	Normal	
Bel Air	7.98	9.26	7.83	25.07	12.09	1949
Owings Mills	7.89	8.64	6.62	23.15	—	—
Royal Oak	7.46	9.01	6.60	23.07	11.11	1947
Conowingo Dam	6.81	9.65	6.50	22.96	11.54	1936
Baltimore	9.76	7.30	5.53	22.59	11.07	1871

The season opened with the warm temperatures of winter continuing into March, when they averaged 2.5° above normal. But precipitation was 2.5-3 in. above normal in most of the state; the western parts were the exception with slightly less than normal. Most of the precipitation occurred on March 1-2, 7-10, 18-19, 21, and 27-28. With the warm temperatures very little fell as snow.

In April the precipitation increased to 4-4.5 in. above normal in most of the state with the west approximately +2.0 in. However, the temperature trend was reversed, averaging 2-2.5° below normal with a sharp increase in the last few days of the month. Major rain dates were April 3, 7-11, 15-16, 18, and 24-26. The last snow fell on the 20th and quickly disappeared.

In May temperatures continued below normal by approximately 1.5° while rainfall was still about 2 in. above normal across the state. Virtually all of this fell from the 15th to the end of the month.

Many wintering birds left earlier than usual. Check Table 2 for the median departure dates of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Rusty Blackbird. Waterfowl, which had been in low numbers all winter, melted away with major flights in early March.

The same weather that appeared to accelerate the departure of these birds also delayed the arrival of those passerine species that normally reach Maryland in the third week of April or earlier (House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prairie Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, etc.). During the 10-day period of April 16-25 daily temperatures at BWI airport averaged 9° below normal. Purple Martins and other species suffered the most fatalities at this time.

Checking the medians (Table 1), most species that usually arrive in late April (such as Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, and Blue-winged Warbler) were on time, bringing with them the belated early migrants as well as many species that normally arrive slightly later in early May (Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting). The weather data from BWI shows that the last four days of April averaged 11° above normal, an overwhelming opportunity for these birds to migrate en masse. The large number of median arrivals during the April 27 – May 1 period backs up this premise.

With the concentrated wet weather of the second half of May the final passage through the state of some migrants was slightly delayed, with more than the usual number going unobserved during this rainy period. Cedar Waxwings, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and the cuckoos were among those notably late.

### OBSERVERS

Garrett – Fran Pope, Connie Skipper, Sallie Thayer.

Allegany – Chris Ludwig, Robert Peterson, Teresa Simons, Mary Twigg.

Washington – Dan Boone, Truman and Leontine Doyle, Bob and Mary Keedy, Alice Mallonee, Dinnie and Harold Winger.

Frederick – Elise Thrasher, David Wallace.

Baltimore – John and Peg Barber, Peggy Bohanan, Gladys Cole, Bob Dixon, Clark Jeschke, Haven Kolb, Barbara Ross, Joe Schreiber, Charles Swift, Joy Wheeler, Jim Wilkinson.

Harford – Barbara Bilsborough, Rick Blom, Dennis and Jean Kirkwood, Betsy Reeder.

Cecil – Sean McCandless, Bob Schutsky.

Howard – Jon E. and Jon K. Boone, Monika and Rod Botsai, Martha Chestem, John Clegg, Chuck Dupree, Jane Farrell, Jane and Ralph Geuder, Mary Hall, Anne Hart, Grazina and Mike McClure, Rosamond Munro, Don and Jan Randle, Chandler Robbins, Jo Solem, Earl Strain, Eva Sunell, Mark Wallace, Cathy Williamson, Paul Zucker.

Montgomery – Larry Bonham, Margaret Donald, Robert Hilton, Stuart MacClintock, Robert Warfield.

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Calvert – Walt Kraus.

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Kent – Jim Gruber, Floyd Parks.

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Talbot – Kathy Trever.

Dorchester – Henry Armistead, Carl Perry.

Wicomico – Sam Dyke.

Worcester – Floyd Hayes, Mary Humphreys, Mike Resch, Chris and Eddie Slaught.

Pelagic – Ron Naveen.

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Hurf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Common Loon	4/9	4/7	4/10	4/4	0	0	4/21	4/23c	4/20 *	—	4/1d	4/3	4/17	—	3/15	3/5q	—	—
Pied-billed Grebe	3/13	3/10	3/21	3/10	0	0	3/6	0	—	0	3/6	4/1	0	—	0	2/18	3/26	—
Horned Grebe	3/20	3/21	3/21	3/8	0	0	—	0	3/22	3/26	4/3	3/27	—	3/4	3/10q	0	—	—
Double-crested Cormorant	4/9	4/8	4/13	0	0	0	4/23	—	4/27	—	—	4/4	3/30s	4/17	3/27	4/3	3/31t	4/16s
American Bittern	4/13	4/22	0	4/29	0	4/10	0	0	0	—	—	4/22	0	0	4/26	—	3/26	0
Great Blue Heron	3/15	3/21	3/21	3/23	—	3/26	—	3/1	3/21	—	3/15	—	—	—	—	—	3/26	—
Great Egret	4/7	4/10	0	0	0	—	5/3	4/23	0	4/10d	3/15	4/3	—	4/22	4/10	4/3	—	4/17
Snowy Egret	4/8	4/16	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	4/22	4/12	0	4/16s	4/17
Cattle Egret	4/13	4/13	0	—	—	4/10	0	4/18c	4/26	0	4/3	5/1	0	4/17	4/2	3/19	—	4/20w
Green-backed Heron	4/17	4/22	—	4/17	5/2	3/30	4/1	4/23	4/20	4/13	4/4	4/23	4/23	4/30	4/22	4/27	—	4/22w
Glossy Ibis	4/9	4/25	0	0	0	0	4/27	0	—	0	—	4/11	0	4/23	0	4/29	—	—
Tundra Swan	3/5	2/26	3/6	2/26	3/2	2/26	2/25	2/24c	2/26	2/21	—	—	2/28s	3/1	2/18	2/21t	2/3s	—
Canada Goose	2/26	2/28	3/15	3/10	3/5	—	2/24	3/4c	2/22	2/24	—	—	—	—	2/22	—	—	—
Wood Duck	3/9	3/5	3/4	3/7	2/26	3/10	4/2	3/5c	3/6	2/21	3/5	4/9	3/4	3/5	3/4	—	—	2/24w
Green-winged Teal	3/22	3/11	—	3/7	0	3/10	3/13c	0	4/7	2/24	4/7d	0	—	3/12	3/6	2/21t	3/26	—
Northern Pintail	3/4	3/6	3/21	3/21	0	3/13c	0	2/22c	2/28	2/24	—	0	0	—	3/17	0	2/1s	0
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/16	3/21	3/9	3/26	3/10	3/6	4/23	3/19	3/29	3/12	3/30	3/26	3/13	3/6	0	3/3	0
Northern Shoveler	3/20	3/16	0	3/6	0	—	—	—	4/7	0	—	0	0	0	3/6	0	3/26	0
Gadwall	3/15	3/11	3/14	3/10	3/9	3/10	0	0	3/9	3/5	3/15	0	0	3/12	4/15	0	3/26	0
American Wigeon	3/7	3/13	3/8	3/19	3/13	3/6	3/13c	3/6	3/19	0	3/15	0	0	—	3/7	0	3/26	0
Canvasback	3/10	2/26	3/31	3/6	0	3/13c	—	0	2/26	0	—	—	—	—	2/19q	1/28	2/21t	0
Redhead	3/6	3/11	3/30	3/9	0	3/13c	0	0	2/23	3/13	—	0	0	3/4	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	3/9	3/9	3/21	3/9	3/26	2/19c	3/6	3/13	2/24	3/5	3/15	0	3/19	3/12	3/24	2/21c	2/28	0
Lesser Scaup	3/10	3/7	3/18	3/6	3/25	3/13c	—	0	3/8	0	—	—	—	—	—	3/7	2/21t	—
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/20	3/12	3/21	0	0	—	0	0	—	3/20	—	0	—	3/5q	0	3/31t	—
White-winged Scoter	—	4/5	0	4/10	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	4/17	3/30s	4/5q	0	3/31t	—
Common Goldeneye	3/1	3/10	3/21	3/12	3/2	0	0	2/26c	0	0	—	—	0	—	3/10q	0	—	—
Bufflehead	3/7	3/5	3/8	3/6	2/26	0	0	2/26c	2/26	3/5	3/20	—	—	—	—	0	—	—
Hooded Merganser	3/7	3/4	3/14	3/3	—	3/10	—	2/26c	2/26	0	—	0	—	3/5	0	0	0	0
Common Merganser	3/5	2/28	—	0	3/2	2/5	3/13c	2/26c	2/24	—	3/23d	0	2/17	3/20	3/3	2/17	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	3/16	3/31	3/21	3/8	3/25	4/26	4/9	0	4/11	0	3/31d	3/26	—	4/3	0	0	—	—
Ruddy Duck	3/17	3/15	—	3/6	0	0	—	0	4/1	0	—	0	—	—	3/25	2/21t	—	—
Osprey	3/25	3/28	4/11	4/4	3/4	3/29	4/11	4/4c	3/30	4/19d	3/12	3/14	3/21	3/30s	3/11	3/14	3/26	3/25w
Northern Harrier	3/8	—	—	—	3/3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3/14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad-winged Hawk	4/15	4/17	4/29	4/28	4/1	4/17	4/5	4/12c	4/18	4/27	4/19	4/11	0	4/16	—	—	—	4/30w
Merlin	—	3/20	0	0	4/13	0	0	3/15c	0	0	4/27	3/20	0	3/5	2/22	4/14q	0	0
Common Moorhen	5/2	4/30	0	5/1	0	0	—	0	0	0	4/29	—	0	4/16	0	0	5/3	—
American Coot	3/17	3/24	3/21	3/1	0	—	3/29	0	—	—	—	—	0	3/27	—	0	0	0

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Gurr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Semipalmated Plover	5/4	5/7	0	0	0	5/1	5/7	5/13c	5/12	0	5/14	0	0	5/6	5/7	5/7t	5/3	—
Killdeer	2/27	2/21	2/22	—	—	2/20	3/13c	2/26c	2/17	2/17	—	—	—	3/1	—	2/21	2/21t	—
Greater Yellowlegs	3/25	3/27	—	4/9	—	3/26	—	—	—	—	4/1	—	—	0	3/24	3/27	3/13	4/7w
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/15	4/7	4/10	3/29	0	3/26	—	0	4/20	0	4/8	0	—	0	—	0	—	4/7w
Solitary Sandpiper	4/25	4/20	0	4/7	5/2	4/18	4/27	4/26	4/20	4/8	4/28	4/28	—	3/30s	—	—	—	4/9w
Spotted Sandpiper	4/26	4/23	4/28	4/15	—	4/12	4/23	4/30	4/10	4/26d	4/8	4/26	4/23	—	—	4/29	—	5/1w
Upland Sandpiper	4/25	—	—	0	—	—	4/28	0	—	0	0	4/30	0	—	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/3	5/7	0	5/3	0	5/17	4/23	5/7	5/7	0	5/7	0	5/7	5/6	5/7	5/7	5/3	5/7s
Least Sandpiper	4/27	4/26	0	—	0	5/1	4/23	—	—	0	0	4/28	0	0	4/26	—	—	4/16s
White-rumped Sandpiper	5/6	5/10	0	0	0	5/11	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/8	0	0	5/10	—
Pectoral Sandpiper	4/10	3/26	0	3/27	0	3/26	—	0	—	0	3/16	0	—	—	4/26	—	—	0
Dunlin	4/21	4/19	0	4/15	0	5/17	4/23	0	0	0	0	0	3/26s	0	2/17q	0	5/3	—
Short-billed Dowitcher	5/3	—	0	0	0	0	—	4/11c	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	4/16	—
Common Snipe	3/12	3/14	4/10	3/27	3/20	2/20	3/20	0	3/10	3/13	3/16	0	3/30s	3/1	—	4/17	2/19s	—
American Woodcock	2/27	3/3	3/9	3/29	3/24	—	3/5	3/3c	2/28	3/3	3/4	2/25	—	3/1	—	—	—	—
Laughing Gull	4/5	4/10	0	0	0	0	4/10	4/23c	0	5/2d	4/25	4/3	5/15	4/10	4/1	4/6	4/3t	3/12
Bonaparte's Gull	3/31	4/1	4/10	4/7	0	0	2/21	4/22c	0	0	4/13d	3/19	0	2/12	0	0	3/26	—
Caspian Tern	4/20	4/17	0	0	0	0	4/9	4/22c	0	0	4/19d	4/4	0	4/16	4/28q	0	0	—
Royal Tern	4/20	4/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/15	4/23	0	0	4/16s	4/17
Common Tern	4/30	4/17	0	0	0	0	4/9	4/26c	0	0	—	0	0	0	4/5q	0	5/3	—
Forster's Tern	4/24	4/22	—	4/22	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	5/6	0	0	4/15q	0	5/3	4/16s
Least Tern	5/3	5/7	0	0	0	0	5/7	0	0	0	5/7	0	0	5/7s	0	0	5/3	—
Black Tern	5/8	5/9	5/8	0	0	0	0	5/13c	0	5/10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/6
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/10	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/7	—	5/3	5/7c	5/7	5/2	5/1	—	0	5/15	5/6	5/7	0	0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/4	5/3	—	5/4	5/3	—	—	—	5/1	5/4	5/1	4/29	—	—	5/2	5/5	5/3	—
Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/8	5/12	5/6	5/5	5/11	5/11	5/14	5/10	5/8	5/1	5/5	5/7	0	5/16	4/27	5/14	5/7w
Whip-poor-will	4/23	4/28	4/30	—	—	—	4/28	5/1c	4/28	5/6	4/28	—	4/28	—	—	4/26	—	4/29w
Chimney Swift	4/17	4/16	4/27	4/9	4/27	4/10	4/9	4/22c	4/16	4/13d	4/10	4/4	4/22	4/17	4/8	4/23	4/16s	4/16
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/30	5/1	5/5	—	5/1	—	4/30	4/30c	5/2	4/23d	5/1	5/3	5/2	—	4/29	4/10q	5/3	5/1w
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/26	4/7	4/3	—	—	—	3/29	—	0	4/7d	4/1	4/9	—	0	4/10	0	0	4/13w
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/4	5/1	—	5/1	—	5/1	5/4	—	—	4/29d	4/28	—	—	—	—	5/2	5/3	—
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	—	5/19	5/30	5/7	0	0	5/28	5/24	0	5/24	5/4d	5/15	0	0	5/10	0	0	0
Acadian Flycatcher	5/3	5/2	—	—	5/3	5/2	5/3	5/4c	4/30	4/28d	4/29	5/5	5/2	—	5/2	—	5/3	—
Willow Flycatcher	5/19	5/21	—	0	5/18	5/28	5/15	5/21	5/22	5/14	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0
Least Flycatcher	5/4	5/6	5/7	5/6	5/7	0	5/7	—	5/1	5/6	5/1d	—	0	—	5/7	0	0	0
Eastern Phoebe	3/17	3/6	3/6	3/1	3/16	3/10	3/14	3/16c	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/30s	3/29	2/22	—	2/12w
Great Crested Flycatcher	5/1	5/1	—	5/4	5/1	5/2	5/3	—	4/27	5/1d	4/30	5/1	—	—	5/2	4/27	5/3	4/28w
Eastern Kingbird	4/25	4/29	5/4	5/3	5/1	4/30c	4/30	5/2	4/27	4/23d	4/28	4/28	4/30	—	4/28	4/27	—	4/16s



Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Purple Martin	3/30	3/30	—	4/9	3/17	3/20	4/12	3/10c	4/10	4/3	3/16	3/20	3/30s	4/16	3/30	3/29	3/26	4/1s
Tree Swallow	3/28	3/30	4/10	3/8	4/4	3/30	4/4	4/4c	3/28	3/29	3/15	3/14	3/30s	4/7	3/29	4/5	3/26	4/6w
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4/11	4/10	—	3/26	4/16	3/26	4/5	4/16	4/10	3/31d	4/2	4/4	4/17	4/16	4/10	4/17	4/17t	—
Bank Swallow	4/29	4/17	—	5/5	—	5/6	—	4/30	4/10	4/19d	4/12	4/12	—	4/16	4/10	0	5/3	0
Cliff Swallow	4/28	4/29	5/2	—	—	—	—	4/28c	4/16	—	5/2d	4/26	0	4/30	0	0	—	—
Barn Swallow	4/6	4/5	4/27	4/5	—	4/2	4/5	4/9	4/3	4/7d	4/4	4/4	3/26s	4/7	4/6	4/6	3/26	4/6w
Brown Creeper	3/22	3/30	4/3	—	—	—	3/29	3/4c	3/4	4/2d	4/6	—	3/30s	0	—	—	—	—
House Wren	4/20	4/25	4/22	4/25	4/29	4/27	4/26	4/26	4/23	4/23	4/4	4/22	5/1s	—	4/22	4/27	4/17s	4/29w
Marsh Wren	5/3	5/1	0	0	0	0	5/1	—	0	—	5/7	—	—	4/3	5/1	5/7	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/26	3/26	3/8	0	3/26	3/30	3/29	3/14	3/4	4/2d	3/13	—	3/30s	—	—	—	—	—
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/8	4/13	4/11	4/18	4/16	4/3	4/4	—	4/14	4/13d	4/12	4/20	4/18s	4/17	4/10	—	—	4/3w
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/16	—	—	4/16	4/18	4/16	4/16c	4/16	4/13	4/16	4/14	4/17	4/23	4/3	4/27	—	4/16w
Veery	5/3	4/30	—	0	0	5/6	4/30	5/3	4/30	4/29	4/29d	4/30	—	0	—	0	—	0
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/11	5/7	0	0	5/7	5/6	5/11	0	5/5	5/4	5/7d	5/7	0	5/15	5/18	0	5/7	—
Swainson's Thrush	5/4	4/29	—	0	5/2	4/24	5/1	—	4/29	4/29	4/27	5/4	—	—	—	0	—	0
Hermit Thrush	4/13	4/10	—	4/25	0	4/27	4/5	3/19c	4/13	4/13	4/10d	4/9	3/19s	4/10	4/3	—	—	—
Wood Thrush	4/24	4/28	4/29	4/28	5/1	5/1	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/28	4/28	4/30	5/2	—	4/27	4/22	—	4/15w
American Robin	2/22	2/23	3/2	2/23	2/16	3/7	2/18	2/26	2/26	2/20	2/5	2/12	2/21	2/28s	—	—	—	2/25w
Gray Catbird	4/25	4/28	—	4/15	4/29	4/28	4/29	4/30	4/28	4/28d	4/16	4/28	4/30	5/1	4/9	4/18	5/3	—
Brown Thrasher	4/7	4/12	4/10	4/21	4/14	4/15	4/18	3/16c	4/12	4/13	4/9	4/8	4/23	4/10s	4/10	4/12	—	4/15w
Water Pipit	3/20	3/9	0	3/22	0	2/16	4/4	3/19c	4/3	0	—	0	0	2/12	2/21q	0	2/28	—
Cedar Waxwing	2/22	3/4	3/9	—	—	4/27	2/22	2/17	—	—	—	—	3/30s	—	—	—	—	2/28w
Loggerhead Shrike	3/24	3/18	0	0	0	3/10	0	0	0	4/13	0	0	0	0	2/20	3/27	0	0
White-eyed Vireo	4/19	4/25	—	—	—	4/28	4/27	4/23	4/27	4/28	4/17	4/28	4/17	—	—	4/23	—	4/17
Solitary Vireo	4/24	4/27	4/29	4/17	—	4/27	—	4/29c	4/28	4/29	4/14	4/28	4/24	—	4/23	0	0	0
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/30	4/30	—	—	5/2	5/1	4/30	4/29	4/29	4/29d	4/28	4/30	5/7	4/29s	5/2	5/2	—	4/21w
Warbling Vireo	4/30	5/1	0	—	5/1	5/1	5/2	—	—	4/30	4/27	0	0	5/1	4/28	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	4/29	4/28	—	—	—	4/30c	4/29	4/29	4/27	4/28d	4/27	4/28	4/30	4/29s	4/29	4/28	—	4/24w
Blue-winged Warbler	5/2	4/29	0	0	—	—	4/29	4/30c	4/28	4/29	4/23d	—	—	—	4/30	0	5/3	5/1
Golden-winged Warbler	5/3	5/2	5/3	—	—	0	5/1	0	0	5/6	4/30	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	5/3	5/2	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/2	5/1	5/7	5/1	5/1d	5/1	5/7	—	—	4/27	—	0	0
Nashville Warbler	5/2	5/2	5/7	—	5/3	4/30c	—	5/7	4/29	5/1	5/1d	—	0	0	5/7	0	0	0
Northern Parula	4/21	4/23	—	—	—	5/1	4/23	4/29	4/7	4/23	4/8	4/23	4/17	4/17	4/30	4/17t	4/17s	4/16w
Yellow Warbler	4/25	4/28	5/4	4/28	4/30	4/29	4/28	4/29	4/23	4/28d	4/27	4/29	—	—	4/23	4/27q	5/3	5/4w
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/3	5/5	5/3	5/7	5/7	0	5/2	5/7	5/7	5/1d	4/30	4/30	5/7	—	5/3	0	5/7t	—
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/7	0	5/1	5/7	5/1	4/30	5/1	5/1	5/17s	5/15	5/7	5/7	5/14	5/14
Cape May Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/7	5/5	5/7	5/2	4/30	5/7	5/1	4/29	5/4d	4/29	0	5/1	4/27	5/7	0	5/14
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/7	—	5/1	5/2	4/29	5/7	4/29	4/29	5/1	5/7	5/5s	4/23	5/7	5/7	5/7t	0



Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/15	3/26	4/29	—	3/26	3/26	3/29	4/23	3/17	4/2d	3/22	4/4	3/24s	—	—	—	—	3/20w
Black-throated Green Warbler	5/2	5/2	4/29	5/7	5/2	0	4/30	5/7c	4/29	4/30	4/29d	4/29	5/2	—	5/7	5/7	5/7	—
Blackburnian Warbler	5/4	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/3	5/7	5/1	5/7	4/29	5/7	5/1d	5/15	0	5/14	5/7	0	5/7L	0
Yellowthroated Warbler	4/17	4/17	0	—	—	—	4/30	4/30	4/23	4/16	4/17	—	—	4/17	—	—	4/17s	4/9w
Pine Warbler	3/17	3/13	3/13	3/5	3/26	—	3/20	3/14c	3/6	4/13	3/6	3/20	3/26	2/28s	3/5	—	—	3/6w
Prairie Warbler	4/24	4/27	4/30	4/7	5/2	4/29	4/27	4/23c	4/27	4/23d	4/8	4/27	4/29	5/1s	5/2	—	4/17s	4/27w
Palm Warbler	4/15	4/21	0	—	0	—	4/21	4/23	4/28	4/13	4/17	4/21	4/17	4/23	4/16	0	0	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/6	5/7	5/7	5/8	5/7	5/2	—	—	5/7	5/1d	4/30	5/7	0	5/8	5/7	0	0	5/10w
Blackpoll Warbler	5/5	5/2	—	5/11	5/8	5/7	4/28	5/7	4/29	4/29d	4/29	4/29	5/1	5/7s	5/2	5/7	5/7s	5/1
Cerulean Warbler	5/3	4/30	—	—	—	—	4/30	5/3	4/30	4/30	4/28	0	—	4/23	—	4/29	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	4/20	4/20	5/1	—	—	4/20	4/15	4/29c	4/27	4/16	4/8	4/23	4/17	4/11s	4/16	4/28	4/17s	4/16w
American Redstart	4/29	4/28	5/7	5/3	—	4/20	4/28	4/30	4/28	4/28d	4/27	4/29	0	4/23	4/29	—	0	4/21w
Prothonotary Warbler	4/23	4/19	0	4/17	—	—	4/15	—	0	4/23	4/17	—	—	4/22	4/27	4/28	—	4/17
Worm-eating Warbler	4/30	4/29	—	—	5/2	5/6	4/30	4/29	4/29	4/27	5/2	4/29	—	4/17	4/22	—	5/3	4/29w
Ovenbird	4/22	4/23	4/30	—	—	—	4/27	4/28c	4/27	4/30	4/17	4/23	4/17	4/29s	4/23	4/23	4/16s	4/17
Northern Waterthrush	5/1	4/28	—	—	—	4/20	4/23	4/23c	5/5	4/28	4/28d	4/29	—	4/23	—	5/5	—	—
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/7	4/12	—	—	—	4/12	4/19	4/16c	4/23	4/2	4/4	4/3	4/5	4/22	4/22	—	—	4/2w
Kentucky Warbler	5/2	5/1	—	—	5/2	—	5/1	4/29c	5/1	4/30	4/29	—	5/1	4/23	5/2	—	5/3	4/30w
Mourning Warbler	5/19	5/20	5/23	5/29	0	0	5/15	0	0	5/17	0	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	4/21	4/23	4/30	—	4/29	5/1	4/28	4/23c	4/29	4/23	4/16d	4/29	4/17	5/2s	4/10	4/23	4/16s	4/17w
Hooded Warbler	4/29	4/30	5/3	—	5/2	—	4/29	5/1c	4/30	5/1	4/28	4/29	4/29s	4/23	0	5/7	0	4/30w
Wilson's Warbler	5/6	5/8	5/7	0	5/7	—	5/7	5/13	5/7	5/10	4/30	—	0	5/15	5/11	5/17	0	0
Canada Warbler	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/10	—	5/7	5/15	5/7c	5/7	5/1	5/4d	5/19	0	5/14	5/8	0	5/14	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/3	5/1	—	5/7	5/2	—	5/1	5/1c	4/30	4/30	4/30	—	5/1	5/1s	5/2	4/29	5/3	4/30w
Bobolink	5/4	5/2	5/1	5/3	5/7	5/2	4/28	5/2	4/29	5/4	4/30	5/4	5/7s	0	5/6	5/1	5/3	0
Red-winged Blackbird	2/20	2/23	2/27	3/4	3/5	2/27	2/12	2/26c	2/20	2/4	2/9	—	3/6	—	—	2/21	—	2/19
Orchard Oriole	5/1	4/30	0	4/28	5/2	—	5/2	—	4/29	4/30	4/30	4/29	—	—	4/29	4/27	5/3	5/1w
Northern Oriole	4/29	4/30	4/29	4/28	5/1	4/30c	4/30	5/1	4/28	4/30	4/29	5/5	4/29	0	5/2	4/27	5/3	0
Rusty Blackbird	3/13	3/14	3/14	3/2	3/26	2/26	4/4	0	—	—	3/31	0	3/4	3/4	4/7	0	—	0
Common Grackle	2/22	2/19	—	3/2	2/3	2/19c	2/11	2/19c	—	2/21	2/5	—	2/25	3/1	—	—	—	2/19
Brown-headed Cowbird	3/1	3/1	3/24	—	—	—	2/11	3/16	—	2/13	—	—	3/1	3/1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Tanager	4/30	4/29	—	5/3	5/7	5/1	4/29	5/2	4/29	5/1	4/29	4/29	4/29	5/2s	4/29	4/28	5/3	4/29w
Summer Tanager	5/3	5/2	0	0	0	0	4/26	0	—	5/7	5/6	5/7	5/1s	—	—	4/28	5/3	5/2w
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/3	5/1	4/30	5/7	5/1	5/2	4/30	5/7c	4/30	4/29	4/30	5/7	5/1	4/23	5/8	5/3	0	4/29w
Blue Grosbeak	5/3	5/1	0	5/4	—	—	4/29	5/1	—	5/1d	4/29	4/28	5/4	5/1s	4/30	4/30	5/3	—

**Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1983**

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Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Purple Finch	3/3	3/26	—	3/1	3/26	3/26	4/4	—	—	—	4/13d	—	3/5	3/30s	2/15	—	—	—
Indigo Bunting	5/2	4/29	5/1	4/17	5/2	4/24	5/2	4/30	4/29	4/4	4/28	4/29	5/1	4/22	4/8	4/29	5/3	—
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/24	4/4	3/14	4/3	4/17	3/21	4/4	—	4/16	4/2d	3/29	—	4/16	4/17	—	—	4/16s	—
Chipping Sparrow	4/4	4/6	4/6	4/7	4/16	4/19	4/16	—	4/20	—	3/27	3/25	3/27	3/27	3/21	3/15	4/16s	—
Vesper Sparrow	4/7	4/10	—	4/30	—	4/12	4/10	—	4/17	4/10d	3/15	4/8	0	0	4/10	—	0	0
Savannah Sparrow	3/28	4/1	—	4/13	—	3/26	4/30	4/1	—	4/10d	3/14	—	0	—	3/16	—	—	—
Grasshopper Sparrow	5/3	4/29	—	—	5/2	4/22	—	—	4/29	—	4/27	—	5/1s	4/22	5/2	—	—	—
Fox Sparrow	2/28	2/28	3/22	—	3/27	3/10	2/22	3/15c	2/11	2/10	2/14	3/5	3/19s	2/26	2/28q	2/14	0	0
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/11	5/3	0	0	0	0	4/29	—	0	5/5	4/28	5/1	5/7	0	5/11	0	0	0

In the migration tables the following counties were combined with other counties because of lack of dates: Carroll County with either Frederick or Baltimore and the date is followed by a "c", Cecil County with Harford County and the date followed by a "c", St. Marys County with Charles or Calvert and the date followed by an "s", Queen Annes County with Kent or Caroline and the date followed by a "q", Talbot County with Caroline or Dorchester and the date followed by a "t", Somerset and Wicomico Counties with Dorchester or Worcester and the dates followed by an "s" or "w" respectively. In the text Wildlife Management Area is abbreviated WMA and a "+" after an observer's name indicates that there were at least two other observers participating. *Italicized* dates in the migration tables denote banded birds.

*Loons, Grebes.* Two Red-throated Loons were reported on Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 21 (Skipper) and one at Elkton on Apr. 23 (McCandless). A high count of 15 was at North Beach on Apr. 28 (Gregoire) and a late one in non-breeding plumage was at Ocean City on May 14 (Ringler +). The first major flights of Common Loons began on Apr. 23 when 31 were seen flying over Oregon Ridge in Baltimore County (Ringler +) and 26 over Elkton (McCandless). The biggest flight occurred on Apr. 27 when hundreds were flying past Fort Smallwood (Wierenga) and 200 were seen over Lake Roland (Swift). Another 175 were at Kent Island on the 28th (Gruber). Stragglers were 2 at Sandy Point State Park on May 24 (Hammer), 1 at Elliott on May 29 (Wilkinson), and 3 at the Hart-Miller impoundment in Baltimore County on May 30 (Ringler +). Horned Grebes began massing for the spring migration in March with 100+ in Prospect Bay on the 10th (Gruber), 100+ at Chesapeake Beach on the 26th (Hammers), and 100 at Point Lookout the same day (Wierenga, Mignogno). There were 65 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 28 (Wierenga) and stragglers were at Rocky Gap on May 23 (Twigg) and Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler +). The only Red-necked Grebes reported were singles at Ocean City on Mar. 26 (Bonham), North Beach on Apr. 3 (Kraus), and North Branch in Allegany County on Apr. 10-13 (Mark Weatherholt +). Eared Grebes appeared along the western shore of the bay this spring, apparently moving northward with Horned Grebes. Kraus noted one at North Beach on Mar. 4 and Apr. 16-24; it was also reported by Gregoire on Apr. 28. On the latter date Wierenga and Klockner saw one at Fort Smallwood about 30 miles to the north.

*Pelagics.* Naveen reports the following totals from his Ocean City boat trips: 38 Northern Fulmars on May 14 and 2 on the 21st; 1 Cory's Shearwater on May 21; 7 Sooty Shearwaters on Apr. 23, 6 on Apr. 28, 31 on Apr. 30, 1 on May 7, and 7 on May 21; 1 Manx Shearwater on Apr. 23; 43 Wilson's Storm-Petrels on Apr. 28, 12 on Apr. 30, 18 on May 7, an impressive 5,741 on May 14, and 85 on May 21; 6 Leach's Storm-Petrels on May 14 and 3 on May 21; and a high of 346 Northern Gannets on Apr. 23 with the last 8 on May 14. Gannets also staged an impressive showing in Chesapeake Bay during the second half of March. The first report was of 6 off Bloody Point Light on the 18th seen from the research vessel *Discovery* by Hermann Gucinski, Anna Shaughenessy, and Richard Wagner. John Hoffman saw about 20 between Smith Is. and Crisfield on Mar. 20. On the 26th Wierenga and Mignogno found 22 at Point Lookout, 29 at Cove Point, and 18 at Holland Point. Klockner saw 5 off Bay Ridge on the 27th, and Warren Kucera saw 12 in the lower Bay between Deal and Tilghman Islands on Mar. 29.

*Pelican, Cormorant, Anhinga.* Herb and Betty Cutler saw 2 Brown Pelicans at Ocean City on May 5. Notable sightings of Double-crested Cormorants were 30 at Rock Hall on Mar. 27 (Gruber), 5 at Tanyard on Apr. 3 (Engle), 63 at Love Point on Apr. 5 (Gruber), 1 at Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 13 (Pope), 25 in DC on Apr. 22 (Czaplak), 1 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Apr. 27 (Solem), 1 at Seneca on May 1

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Common Loon	5/11	5/15	5/7	—	0	0	5/30	—	5/23	5/10	5/7	5/24	—	—	5/11	5/7t	5/29	5/18
Horned Grebe	5/2	5/2	—	5/23	0	0	5/30	0	—	—	5/3	4/28	5/1s	4/30	4/28q	0	5/3	—
Double-crested Cormorant	5/21	5/30	5/24	0	0	0	5/30	5/31c	5/19	—	—	—	6/15s	—	—	—	5/14	6/12
American Bittern	5/2	5/10	0	5/5	0	—	0	0	0	5/6	5/14	0	0	0	4/26	5/13	5/14	0
Tundra Swan	4/19	4/10	3/26	3/10	0	3/10	4/22	3/22c	3/17	4/29	4/23	4/23	3/4	3/1	4/10	4/19	5/3	5/6s
Snow Goose	4/3	4/4	0	0	0	0	0	3/4c	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/7	4/4	—	—
Green-winged Teal	4/29	4/17	4/6	4/25	0	3/30	3/13c	0	4/11	4/7d	4/27	0	4/17	—	5/7	4/17	5/14	—
Northern Pintail	4/2	4/7	3/26	5/7	0	0	3/13c	3/23	3/22	—	3/31	0	0	4/7	5/7	4/17t	5/3	5/7w
Blue-winged Teal	5/2	5/6	5/7	—	5/7	5/7	4/27	4/30	5/5	4/23	5/7	—	5/1	4/23	5/10	5/7q	—	—
Northern Shoveler	4/12	4/10	0	4/10	0	4/18	4/13	4/9	4/7	0	4/10	0	0	0	4/26	0	3/26	0
Gadwall	5/2	4/23	—	—	—	4/10	0	0	4/9	4/6d	4/30	0	0	—	5/2	5/7t	5/14	4/16s
American Wigeon	4/18	4/12	4/10	3/28	3/13	4/22	4/14	—	4/27	0	4/28	0	0	4/7	4/26	0	3/26	0
Canvasback	4/13	3/31	3/31	4/15	0	3/13c	3/27	0	3/2	0	4/7	3/19	3/30s	4/23	4/4	—	—	0
Redhead	3/28	3/27	5/2	4/10	0	0	3/13c	0	3/16	3/13	3/27	0	0	4/22	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	4/14	4/17	4/19	—	3/26	4/22	4/27	—	4/16	4/2d	4/13	0	4/17	3/30s	4/17	—	4/17t	0
Greater Scaup	4/7	3/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/23d	3/19	3/30s	4/23	3/31	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	4/26	5/1	5/7	4/25	4/30	4/18	5/7	0	5/7	4/19d	5/7	5/7	4/12	4/23	—	—	—	—
Oldsquaw	4/10	4/16	4/11	4/15	4/9	0	4/23	0	0	4/10	4/14d	5/7	3/30s	4/16	4/15q	0	4/17t	5/10
Black Scoter	4/16	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4/17	0	0	0	5/18
Surf Scoter	5/6	5/1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/1s	4/4	0	0	5/7t	0
White-winged Scoter	4/24	4/12	0	4/12	0	0	0	5/7	0	0	0	—	4/17	4/11	4/5q	0	3/31t	0
Common Goldeneye	4/18	4/3	3/30	3/21	—	0	0	3/7c	0	0	4/7	5/7	3/30s	4/17	4/6	0	—	—
Bufflehead	5/2	4/28	4/27	5/6	—	0	0	5/7	4/30	4/30	4/16	—	4/17	4/23	4/28q	0	3/31t	—
Hooded Merganser	4/18	4/21	5/7	—	5/7	4/18	3/29	4/23	4/7	0	4/16	0	5/7	—	0	0	—	0
Common Merganser	4/7	4/15	4/27	0	5/7	3/20	4/6	4/10c	4/27	4/19d	5/7	0	3/29	4/3	5/7	2/17	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	5/4	5/7	5/8	—	—	4/26	5/30	5/7c	5/7	5/19d	5/8	—	5/7	4/12	0	0	5/7	5/18
Ruddy Duck	5/4	5/4	5/9	4/10	0	0	5/7	0	4/4	4/19d	4/10	0	0	4/30	5/13	0	5/15t	5/10s
Northern Harrier	5/4	5/7	—	5/1	5/5	5/7	5/8	5/7	5/7	4/3	5/26	5/9	3/30s	0	5/7q	5/7	5/7t	—
Rough-legged Hawk	4/3	4/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3/22	0	0	2/24	5/7	4/16s	—
Merlin	—	5/2	0	0	—	0	0	4/11c	0	0	4/27	5/10	0	—	5/2	5/15q	0	0
American Coot	5/3	4/28	4/21	5/7	0	4/18	4/30	0	4/28	4/23	5/17	4/22	0	4/30	4/26	0	0	0
Black-bellied Plover	5/25	5/26	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	—	0	5/22	0	0	5/14w	6/12
Semipalmated Plover	5/27	5/26	0	0	0	5/20	5/30	0	—	0	5/21d	0	0	—	—	0	—	6/12
Greater Yellowlegs	5/9	5/11	5/2	—	—	5/11	5/7	5/13c	5/12	5/7	5/14	0	5/10	0	5/7	5/7	5/14	5/18
Lesser Yellowlegs	5/9	5/11	—	—	0	5/11	5/7	5/12c	5/19	0	—	0	5/10	0	5/7	5/7	5/14	—
Solitary Sandpiper	5/15	5/14	0	—	—	5/17	—	5/14	5/19	5/14	5/27d	0	—	5/8	—	5/13	5/14	—
Spotted Sandpiper	5/25	5/27	—	—	5/22	5/26	—	5/21	5/31	5/27d	6/1	—	—	5/31	—	—	—	—
Ruddy Turnstone	5/29	5/29	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	—	0	5/14	0	0	5/28t	6/12

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates, 1983

Species	Medians 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Allc.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Sanderling	5/11	5/21	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	5/15	0	0	5/14	5/27
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/27	6/1	0	—	0	5/20	5/30	—	—	—	5/22	0	—	6/1	6/11q	—	6/19	6/12
Least Sandpiper	5/17	5/17	0	—	0	5/20	—	5/29	5/18	5/20d	5/22	—	0	5/14	5/11	5/15	5/14	5/15
White-rumped Sandpiper	5/29	5/30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
Pectoral Sandpiper	5/5	5/7	0	—	0	—	5/7	0	5/12	0	—	0	5/7	5/14	5/7	5/7t	5/3	5/7s
Dunlin	5/25	6/6	0	—	0	5/20	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	6/19	6/12
Short-billed Dowitcher	5/23	5/24	0	0	0	0	5/30	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	5/18
Common Snipe	5/4	4/24	4/10	3/28	5/7	4/22	—	4/20	4/7	4/24d	5/7	0	0	—	5/7	5/7	5/3	—
Bonaparte's Gull	5/3	4/22	4/10	4/12	0	0	4/27	4/26	0	4/22d	4/16	4/27	0	—	0	0	5/7	4/17
Short-eared Owl	3/31	3/20	0	0	0	2/28	0	0	0	2/22	0	4/11	0	0	0	0	3/26	3/20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5/2	5/3	4/30	5/7	5/7	4/28	4/30	4/30	0	5/6	4/30	5/7	4/13s	0	5/7	—	5/7t	—
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5/3	4/30	0	5/11	0	5/6	0	4/30	3/31	5/7	4/27d	4/23	0	0	0	4/19	5/7t	—
Brown Creeper	4/26	4/23	—	—	—	—	5/1	—	4/21	4/30	4/27	4/23	—	0	4/16	4/18	—	—
Winter Wren	4/22	4/28	5/8	0	5/2	4/1	4/28	5/5c	4/20	0	4/1	4/9	0	0	5/10	—	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	4/13	4/13	4/29	0	3/26	4/22	4/13	4/23c	4/10	4/3	4/13	4/10	4/20s	4/30	—	4/3	—	—
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5/6	5/7	5/11	5/11	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/9	5/14	5/7	5/7s	4/30	5/7	5/7t	5/3	—
Veery	5/21	5/22	—	0	0	—	5/31	5/25c	—	5/31	5/24	5/26	5/17	5/17s	5/18	5/19	5/14	0
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/23	5/25	0	0	—	—	5/31	5/25c	—	6/5	5/24d	5/25	0	5/15	5/18	0	0	0
Swainson's Thrush	5/25	5/28	—	0	5/22	5/22	5/30	5/27c	5/28	6/8	6/12d	6/5	5/22	5/30	5/18	5/20	0	0
Hermit Thrush	5/4	5/7	—	5/7	0	4/28	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/24	5/6	5/5	4/13s	5/7	—	5/7t	—	—
Water Pipit	5/3	4/20	0	3/28	0	5/7	4/4	5/7c	4/3	0	5/6	0	0	—	0	—	—	—
Cedar Waxwing	5/27	5/31	—	—	5/22	6/4	—	5/29	—	5/31	—	5/28	6/14	0	—	—	—	6/5
Solitary Vireo	5/4	5/7	—	5/7	5/7	5/1	5/7	5/7c	5/7	5/7	5/11d	—	—	5/1	5/7	5/7t	5/7	0
Blue-winged Warbler	5/10	5/12	0	0	—	—	—	5/8	—	—	5/12	—	—	5/15	5/11	0	0	0
Golden-winged Warbler	5/8	5/11	—	—	—	0	—	0	0	5/10d	5/1	0	0	5/15	5/11	0	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	5/22	5/24	5/23	—	5/22	5/27	5/30	5/24	5/24	5/25	5/27	5/22	—	—	5/18	5/15	0	0
Nashville Warbler	5/12	5/18	—	5/23	5/22	0	5/11	—	—	5/28	5/18d	—	0	0	5/18	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/18	5/22	—	—	5/22	0	5/24	5/29	5/25	5/19	5/30	—	—	5/15	5/17	0	0	5/14
Magnolia Warbler	5/18	5/27	—	—	5/22	0	5/30	5/27c	5/27	5/30	6/1	5/28	5/27s	—	5/18	5/17	—	5/14
Cape May Warbler	5/15	5/18	—	5/21	5/18	—	—	—	5/12	5/17	5/24d	5/22	0	5/15	5/18	5/13	0	5/14
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/16	5/19	—	5/23	—	5/10	5/18	5/18	5/20	5/19	5/19	5/25	—	5/15	5/13	—	0	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/15	5/17	5/29	5/11	5/18	5/10	5/17	5/14	5/17	5/19	5/24	5/18	5/17	5/15	5/18	5/15q	5/14	5/14
Black-throated Green Warbler	5/15	5/18	—	—	5/22	0	5/20	5/18	5/17	5/12	5/18	5/29	—	5/15	5/18	—	—	5/14
Blackburnian Warbler	5/18	5/22	—	—	5/22	5/28	3/24	5/21	—	5/30	5/17	5/28	0	5/15	5/18	0	0	0
Palm Warbler	5/3	5/1	0	5/1	0	5/1	—	5/1	5/7	5/6	4/26	5/4	—	4/23	4/20	5/7	0	0
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/24	5/25	5/23	—	5/18	5/27	5/17	5/27c	5/24	5/26	5/31	5/28	0	5/15	5/18	5/30	0	0
Blackpoll Warbler	5/29	5/30	5/25	—	5/22	6/5	6/1	5/29	5/25	5/30	6/12d	6/2	5/30	—	5/18	5/20	0	—
American Redstart	5/29	5/30	—	—	—	—	6/1	5/27c	5/24	5/30	6/4	5/29	5/24s	5/31	—	5/22	—	—

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates, 1983

Species	Medinns 10 yr. 1983		Garr.	Alle.	Wash.	Fred.	Balt.	Harf.	Howd.	Mont.	Pr. Geo.	Ann Ar.	Char.	Calv.	Kent	Caro.	Dorc.	Worc.
Northern Waterthrush	5/23	5/24	—	—	5/18	5/23	5/24	5/24	—	5/30	5/27	5/17	—	—	5/17	5/24	—	—
Mourning Warbler	5/30	6/2	—	—	0	0	6/4c	0	0	5/31	0	6/6	5/30	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Warbler	5/21	5/22	—	0	5/18	5/28	—	5/25	5/19	5/29	5/30d	5/28	0	5/15	5/18	5/17	0	0
Canada Warbler	5/26	5/27	—	—	5/18	—	5/30	5/27c	5/24	5/31	6/5	5/28	0	5/15	5/18	0	—	0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/19	5/26	—	5/23	5/18	5/28	5/24	5/27c	6/5	5/30	6/7	6/4	5/22	—	5/18	5/13	0	0
American Tree Sparrow	3/21	3/5	3/30	—	—	—	2/21	2/6c	—	—	4/14	2/15	0	0	3/17	0	0	0
Savannah Sparrow	5/7	5/18	—	—	5/18	—	—	—	5/10	5/22d	5/18	5/17	—	—	—	—	—	5/12
Fox Sparrow	4/4	4/13	4/23	4/3	4/17	4/8	4/18	4/17c	4/5	4/18d	4/5	4/23	3/19s	3/19	0	—	0	0
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/23	5/24	0	0	0	0	5/23	5/24	0	5/28	—	—	—	0	—	0	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	5/9	5/7	—	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/23	5/18	5/11	5/19	—	5/7	5/7	—	5/7	5/7t	5/7	—
White-throated Sparrow	5/13	5/14	5/11	5/7	5/18	5/12	5/23	5/13c	5/10	5/27	5/18	5/14	5/11	5/8	5/13	5/17	5/14	5/14
White-crowned Sparrow	5/8	5/8	5/13	5/10	5/18	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/16	5/7	5/14	5/7	0	0	5/7	5/9	5/7	5/18
Dark-eyed Junco	5/3	5/6	5/7	5/7	5/7	5/6	4/29	5/7	5/19	5/26	5/7	4/23	4/18s	4/23	5/7	5/4	—	4/17
Bobolink	5/16	5/21	—	—	—	5/21	—	5/22	5/19	5/20d	5/17	5/21	0	0	0	—	5/14	5/29s
Rusty Blackbird	5/4	5/3	3/22	5/7	5/7	3/30	4/4	5/7c	—	4/13	5/1	0	5/7s	—	5/7	0	5/3	0
Purple Finch	5/5	5/7	5/12	5/7	5/18	5/7	5/7	5/9c	5/8	5/7	5/9	5/7	4/28s	0	5/7	4/27	5/7t	5/7w
Pine Siskin	5/5	5/5	5/2	—	5/7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evening Grosbeak	5/5	4/3	5/5	0	0	0	1/22	0	0	4/2d	4/4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Warfield), 50 at Concord on May 7 (B. Scudder), 7 flying up the Bush River on May 7 (Blom), 350 still migrating past Assateague on May 12 (Resch), 1 at Triadelphia on May 19 (M. Wallace), 1 on Broadford Reservoir on May 24 (Pope), and a late one on the Susquehanna River on May 31 (Schutsky). Mary Humphreys found an *Anhinga* at Berlin on May 7 and it was photographed on the following day by Fred and Frances Brueckmann.

*Hérons, Ibis.* American Bitterns have been very uncommon in recent years. This spring reports came from Lilypons on Apr. 10 (D. Wallace), Sandy Point on Apr. 22 (Wierenga), Pinto Swamp in Allegany County from Apr. 29 to May 5 (Simons +), Greensboro on May 13 (Hewitt), and in Prince Georges County on May 14 (Gregoire). Schutsky's peak count of Great Blue Herons at Conowingo was 33 on May 27. The first Great Egret of the season was reported in Prince Georges County on Mar. 15 (Gregoire), and others were at Denton on Apr. 3 (Westre) with 5 there on the 11th, in DC on Apr. 10 (Czaplak), at Lake Roland on May 3 (Swift), and at Lilypons on May 11 (D. Wallace), the latter with one Snowy Egret. A Snowy Egret in Howard County on May 20 (M. Wallace) was also unusual. A Little Blue Heron was at Remington Farms on Apr. 3 (Gruber) and an adult was at Lilypons on May 28 (Czaplak, Gary Nelson). The first Tricolored Heron was reported at Deal Island WMA on Mar. 19 (Hayes, Glen Bennett) and one was at Black Marsh on May 30 (Ringler +). A very early Cattle Egret was at Preston on Mar. 19 (Westre) and another in Prince Georges County on Apr. 3 (Gregoire). Others of note were 2 at Lilypons on Apr. 10 (D. Wallace), 5 near Elkton on Apr. 18 (McCandless), and 9 flying over the Hart-Miller impoundment on May 30 (Ringler +). Early Green-backed Herons were at Back River on Apr. 1 (Wilkinson), Croom Station on Apr. 4 (Conn), and near Little Orleans in Allegany County on Apr. 17 (Warfield). Schutsky found his first 5 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Conowingo on Mar. 17 and his high count of 52 on May 27. These birds probably nest in Pennsylvania. One was at Tanyard on Apr. 10 (Engle). The first Glossy Ibis was reported from Fort Smallwood on Apr. 11 (Wierenga). Others were at Chesapeake Beach on Apr. 23 (Kraus), 18 flying over Broadmead in Baltimore County on Apr. 27 (Nancy Rowe), 20 at Greensboro on Apr. 29 (Hewitt), in Howard County on May 7-8 (Zucker, Boones), and at Croom Station on May 9 (Conn).

*Swans, Geese.* The first major flight of Tundra Swans occurred on Mar. 5 when Warfield noted one flock over Seneca, 84 were on the pond at Unity (Ringler), and 147 flew over Elkton (McCandless). There were 60 at Lilypons on the 10th (D. Wallace). Warfield noted that most swans passed through Montgomery County on the 13th-15th. One swan was calling as it flew in circles above Cylburn Park in the dark on the night of the 14th (Ringler) and Klockner found 35 at West Ocean City on the rather late date of Apr. 21. Among a large flight of geese on Mar. 4 McCandless counted 16 Snow Geese at Elkton. About 1,000 Snow Geese were still in the fields near Hobbs in Caroline County on Apr. 4 (Fountain). Resch reported 35 Brant remaining at North Assateague on May 12. March 4 was a major flight day for Canada Geese as large flocks were noted in Montgomery County, Baltimore, and near Elkton where McCandless counted 7,267 and 3,950 on the 5th, with later flights there of 900 on the 14th and 3,542 on the 15th.

*Ducks.* An early Blue-winged Teal was at Back River on Mar. 6 (Ringler, Armistead) and 16 at Lilypons on Mar. 26 (Wilson). A late one was at Harford Glen on May 13 (Blom +). A high spring court of 70 Northern Shovelers was at Remington Farms in Kent County on Apr. 15 (Gruber). Gruber estimated 400 Canvasbacks in Langford Bay and 300 in Winchester Creek in Kent County on Mar. 3. High counts of Ring-necked Ducks were 175 at Piney Run on Mar. 13 (Ringler) and 355 on Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 30 (Skipper), and one drake remained at Pinto Swamp through



the end of the period (Simons + ). High counts of Lesser Scaup were 2,000 in southern Dorchester County on Mar. 26 (Armistead) and 3,000 at Worton Point on Mar. 31 (Gruber). Gruber estimated the Kent Island Oldsquaws on Mar. 5 at 1,200, those at Love Point on Apr. 5 at 1,500, and the combined flock of Oldsquaws and Common Goldeneyes in Eastern Bay on Mar. 10 at 4,000. Early Oldsquaws in Garrett County were 1 at Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 12 (Hammers) and 1 on Broadford Reservoir on the 18th (Thayer). There were 900 Oldsquaws in the mouth of the Choptank River on Apr. 1 (Armistead), 4 on Broadford Reservoir on Apr. 11 (Pope), and 1 on the Easton sewage lagoons on Apr. 17 (Ringler). A late individual, probably a non-breeding wanderer was at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). Willoughby counted 136 Surf Scoters and 62 White-winged Scoters in St. Marys County on Mar. 30. The 5 White-winged Scoters at Rocky Gap on Apr. 10-12 were unusual in the mountains as was a Common Goldeneye there on May 16 (Twigg). Connie Skipper reported that the first open water appeared on Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 8 and one Bufflehead was occupying the territory on that day. Her high count there was 35 on Mar. 30. Other high counts of Buffleheads were 142 in St. Marys County on Mar. 30 (Willoughby), 175 in the mouth of the Choptank River on Mar. 31 (Armistead), and 250 at Kent Island on Apr. 27 (Gruber). There were 27 Hooded Mergansers on Deep Creek Lake on Mar. 30 (Skipper). The 8 Common Mergansers on Langford Bay on Mar. 3 (Gruber) and the 1 at Point Lookout on Mar. 26 (Wierenga, Mignogno) were unusual at those locations. There were 2 Red-breasted Mergansers at Frederick on Apr. 26 (D. Wallace) and 1 very late bird at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). Unusually late Ruddy Ducks on the Eastern Shore were singles at Deal Island WMA on May 10 (Hayes), near Millington on May 13 and at the Easton sewage lagoons on May 15 (Ringler + ). A drake Ruddy Duck in breeding plumage remained on Broadford Reservoir through the end of the period (Pope).

Table 3. Hawk Counts-Spring 1983

Washington Monument State Park March 3-May 9

Species	Total	First	Last	Best Days
Black Vulture	3/11	3/15	6	4 on 3/15
Turkey Vulture	3/11	4/15	17	9 on 3/15
Osprey	3/4	5/4	193	60 on 4/27, 35 on 4/26, 18 on 4/12
Bald Eagle	4/12	4/27	2	
Northern Harrier	3/3	5/5	52	11 on 4/13, 8 on 4/12, 5 on 3/13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/4	5/5	238	49 on 4/12, 38 on 4/13, 26 on 4/4
Cooper's Hawk	3/28	5/3	15	4 on 4/13, 2 on 4/27
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/4	5/3	87	49 on 4/15
Broad-winged Hawk	4/1	5/3	438	166 on 4/27, 84 on 4/23, 53 on 4/17
Red-tailed Hawk	3/3	5/5	637	92 on 4/12, 81 on 4/11, 64 on 3/15
American Kestrel	3/13	4/27	36	10 on 4/13, 7 on 3/15
Merlin	4/13		1	
Unidentified			99	
Total			1,821	

34 days, 113½ hours, 1.6 observers/day. Data supplied by Truman Doyle. Various observers.

## Fort Smallwood Park March 14-May 25

Species	First	Last	Total	Best Days
Black Vulture	3/14	5/9	34	8 on 4/4, 7 on 3/14, 6 on 3/22
Turkey Vulture	3/14	5/25	1,003	194 on 3/21, 162 on 3/14, 98 on 4/11
Osprey	3/14	5/25	466	158 on 4/11, 93 on 4/26, 45 on 4/21
Bald Eagle	4/22		1	immature
Northern Harrier	3/14	5/9	149	59 on 4/11, 21 on 4/4, 14 on 4/12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/14	5/11	1,210	170 on 4/22, 165 on 4/29, 137 on 4/26
Cooper's Hawk	3/14	5/10	263	41 on 4/11, 31 on 3/22, 21 on 4/22
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/14	5/6	224	81 on 3/14, 39 on 3/20, 23 on 3/22
Broad-winged Hawk	4/11	5/25	404	134 on 4/22, 123 on 4/29, 30 on 4/18
Red-tailed Hawk	3/14	5/25	231	37 on 3/14, 29 on 3/22, 23 on 4/11
Rough-legged Hawk	3/22		1	light phase
American Kestrel	3/14	5/9	854	334 on 4/11, 82 on 4/12, 77 on 4/4, 75 on 3/22
Merlin	3/20	5/10	61	51 on 4/26, 2 on 4/12 and 4/27
Peregrine Falcon	5/4		1	
Unidentified			87	
Total			4,989	

29 days, 121 hours, 1.5 observers/day, 4.2 hours/day. Data supplied by Hal Wierenga who was present on 25 days. Other observers were Wayne Klockner (11 days), Larry Bonham, Bill Clark, Shura Devore, Dan Eberly, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, and Debbie Mignogno (each 1-3 days).

*Diurnal Raptors.* See Table 3 for tallies from the spring hawk watches. Schutsky's high counts at Conowingo were 11 **Black Vultures** on Apr. 13 and 75 **Turkey Vultures** on Apr. 22. Unusual were the 8 **Turkey Vultures** that Resch found resting on the north end of Assateague on May 12. Early **Ospreys** were seen at Monument Knob on Mar. 4 (Doyle), in Prince Georges County on Mar. 12 (Gregoire), and at Tanyard on Mar. 14 (Engle); Schutsky counted 40 migrants at the Susquehanna River on Apr. 22. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported by Tony White near Trappe on May 4 and perhaps the same bird was seen by Kathy Trever at Tanyard on May 13. Armistead's high count of **Bald Eagles** in southern Dorchester County was 12 immatures and 13 adults on Mar. 26 when he also counted 40 **Northern Harriers**. The only **Northern Goshawk** reported was an immature near Broadford Reservoir on Mar. 13 (Pope). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was seen at Monument Knob on April 1 (Doyle). The only significant numbers of **Broad-wings** away from the hawk lookouts (see Table 3) were 126 at Oregon Ridge Park on Apr. 23 (Ringler +), 50 at Frederick on Apr. 27 (D. Wallace), and 108 at Elkton the same day (McCandless). Late **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen at Irish Grove on Apr. 16 (Ringler +) and at Greensboro on May 7 (Hewitt). Both were described as dark-phase birds. The last **Golden Eagle** reported was an immature at Blackwater on Mar. 26 (Armistead). Klockner spotted an early migrant **Merlin** at Fort Smallwood on Mar. 20. The only **Merlin** reports away from the hawk watches were singles at Fishing Creek Marsh in Calvert County on Mar. 5 (Kraus), at Price in Queen Annes County on Apr. 14 (Gruber), at Golts in Kent County on May 2 (Parks), and near Tuckahoe State Park in Queen Annes County on May 15 (Blom +). On Mar. 5 an unbanded **Peregrine Falcon** was found dead, floating near the beach at Sandy Point by Jon Boone and Russell Chandler.

*Rails.* Wierenga heard 3 Black Rails at Sandy Point on May 7. A King Rail at North Branch May 22-25 (Twigg) was extremely rare for Allegany County. On Mar. 17 Delores Martin found a Virginia Rail sitting on her car, parked in a public lot in Towson. The bird was captured, banded by Gladys Cole, and released in more suitable habitat. Gregoire heard several Soras in Prince Georges County on May 14. Interesting sightings of Common Moorhens were 1 at Croom Station on Apr. 29 (Conn), 1 at Pinto Swamp from May 1-6 (Simons + ), and 2 at the Blue Plains sewage plant in DC on May 26 (Czaplak). The only large number of American Coots reported was 65 at Deep Creek Lake on Apr. 13 (Skipper). Late birds were at West Ocean City on May 14 (Ringler + ) and in Prince Georges County on May 17 (Gregoire).

*Shorebirds.* There were 13 Black-bellied Plovers in a plowed field near Powellville in Wicomico County on May 14 (Ringler, John Trochet). Exceedingly rare in spring was a Lesser Golden Plover calling as it flew over the Laytonsville landfill on Mar. 22 (Wierenga, Claudia Wilds). Resch found only 2 Wilson's Plovers and 20 Piping Plovers on Assateague on May 12. Unusual for Cecil County were 3 Semipalmated Plovers at Rising Sun on May 13 (Ringler + ). Armistead found 4 American Oystercatchers at Hooper Island on Mar. 26. Rare at any time in the state were the 4 Black-necked Stilts at Deal Island WMA on May 15 (Vaughn). On Mar. 13 there were already 21 Greater Yellowlegs at Blackwater (Armistead). A very early Solitary Sandpiper was found on St. Jerome's Neck in St. Marys County on Mar. 30 (Wilson). Willets reported from the Chesapeake Bay region were at Kent Island on Apr. 27 (Gruber), Chesapeake Beach on May 8 (Kraus), and Benedict on the Patuxent River on May 21 (Nistico). A very early Spotted Sandpiper was at Croom Station on Apr. 8 (Conn). Interesting reports of Upland Sandpipers were of single birds at Anne Arundel Community College on Apr. 30 (photographed by Van Velsir), Upper Marlboro on May 9 (Kraus), and in Howard County on May 12 (Boone). The only reports of Whimbrels were 2 on Assateague and 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 1 (Hammers), 2 on Assateague on May 12 (Resch), and 1 flying over Hart-Miller on May 30 (Wierenga + ). A high count for the northern part of the bay was 20 + Ruddy Turnstones at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). The only Red Knots reported were 12 at Ocean City on May 6 (Czaplak), 60 on Assateague on May 12 (Resch), and 1 at Chesapeake Beach on May 21-31 (Kraus). A Sanderling was at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). There were 35 Least Sandpipers at Harford Glen on May 13 (Blom + ). The only White-rumped Sandpipers reported were 2 at Blackwater on May 10 (Hayes + ), 3 at Lilypons on May 11 (D. Wallace), 2 there on May 14 (Bonham), and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). An early Dunlin was at Point Lookout on Mar. 26 (Wierenga) and 1 at North Branch on Apr. 15 was unusual for Allegany County (Twigg). There were 12 at Lilypons, May 17-20 (D. Wallace) and 15 at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Blackwater on Apr. 16 (Hayes, Glen Bennett) was rather early and 3 at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Ringler + ) were slightly late. The only notable count of Common Snipe was 20 at Denton on Apr. 18 (Hewitt). Kerry Kirkpatrick and Wilkinson found an American Woodcock nest with 5 eggs at Masonville on May 7. Naveen's pelagic birders found 8 Northern Phalaropes off Ocean City on May 14, and Red Phalaropes numbered 14 on Apr. 23, a whopping 1,001 on Apr. 28, 50 on Apr. 30, and 38 on May 14.

*Jaegers, Gulls.* The April 30 pelagic trip off Ocean City found a Pomarine Jaeger and 2 Parasitic Jaegers, plus 2 of the latter on May 7 and 1 on May 14 (Naveen + ). An early Laughing Gull was at Ocean City on Mar. 12 (Klockner). An immature Little Gull at Hart-Miller on May 30 (Wierenga + ) was certainly a non-breeding vagrant. Interesting totals of Bonaparte's Gulls were 21 in DC on Apr. 13 (Czaplak) and 32 on the Susquehanna on Apr. 26 (Schutsky). Schutsky makes weekly counts of

waterbirds on the lower Susquehanna River and his other high totals were 13,500 Ring-billed Gulls on Mar. 3, 2,750 Herring Gulls on Mar. 7, and 1,000 Great Black-backed Gulls on Mar. 7. Wierenga described a possible immature Thayer's Gull at Laytonsville on Apr. 13. He also found there an immature Iceland Gull on Mar. 17, single adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Mar. 4 and 17, and an immature Glaucous Gull on Mar. 16-17. Other immature Glaucous Gulls were at Back River on Mar. 6 (Armistead, Ringler), on the Potomac River in DC on Mar. 22 (Czaplak), at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 18 (Wierenga), and at Hart-Miller on Apr. 23 (Dixon). There were 10 Great Black-backs at Denton on Mar. 7 (Hewitt). A highlight of the Apr. 28 boat trip from Ocean City was a Sabine's Gull (Naveen +).

*Terns.* Resch found 2 Gull-billed Terns at Assateague on May 12. The 15 Caspian Terns flying over Lake Roland on Apr. 27 (Swift) were unusual inland. There were 3 Royal Terns at Rumbly Point on Apr. 16 (Ringler +) and 3 more at Point Lookout on May 1 (Wilson). An early Common Tern was seen in Baltimore on Apr. 9 (Conn) and 1 on the Susquehanna on Apr. 26 (Schutsky) was rare. One Arctic Tern was reported on the May 21 boat trip from Ocean City (Naveen +). Extremely rare in western Maryland were a Forster's Tern at Rocky Gap on Apr. 22 (Ludwig) and 2 at Deep Creek Lake on May 8 (Pope). Reports of Black Terns were as follows: 1 at Ocean City on May 6 (Tony Futchner +), 15 at Broadford Reservoir on May 8 (Pope), 2 there the next day (Skipper), and 1 more on the 30th (Pope), 1 at Violet's Lock on May 10 (Sumner +), 2 on the Susquehanna on May 13, 1 there on the 23rd, and 2 more on the 27th (Schutsky).

*Owls, Goatsuckers, Swifts, and Hummingbirds.* A Burrowing Owl near Oakland on May 18-20 was well-photographed and will be reported separately. This bird, which appears to be of the western race, is the first for Maryland. Short-eared Owl reports were of 1 at St. Martin's Neck on Mar. 20 (Hammers) and 2 at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 11 (Wierenga). One out-of-place Chuck-will's-widow was calling in Frederick on May 3 (Elise Thrasher). Two Chimney Swifts at Fort Smallwood on Apr. 4 (Wierenga) were a bit early. Also early was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird near the village of Queen Anne on Apr. 10 (Rittenhouse).

*Kingfishers, Woodpeckers.* Sallie Thayer saw a pair of Belted Kingfishers excavating a nest burrow in the bank of the Youghiogheny River near Oakland on Mar. 1. Three days later she saw a Red-tailed Hawk capture the female kingfisher from a branch overhanging the river and perch nearby to consume the remains while the male watched quietly from another perch. Two days after this event the male kingfisher was seen working on the burrow again. There was no report until Apr. 6 when a pair of kingfishers was again excavating, this time about 15 feet from the previous burrow. This effort was also unsuccessful as the nest was later flooded by high waters. The kingfishers departed for the season. A Pileated Woodpecker observed at Fort Smallwood on May 5 (Wierenga) may have been a migrant.

*Flycatchers.* The only Olive-sided Flycatchers reported this spring were at Beltsville on May 17 (Sumner), at the Frederick Watershed on May 21 (D. Wallace), and near Stevenson on May 25 (Dixon, Ringler). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were more widely reported this spring, including an early one in Allegany County on May 9 (Boone) and one at Mountaineer Farms in Garrett County on May 30 (Thayer). Others that were banded were caught at Annapolis on May 15 (Melvilles), Aberdeen on May 24 (Bilsborough), Adventure Sanctuary on May 24 and 29 (Donnald), and Towson on May 28 (Cole). Early Eastern Phoebees were at Adventure on Mar. 5

(Mumford) and at Patuxent River Park the next day (Hammers). Also early was an Eastern Kingbird at Irish Grove Sanctuary near Marion on Apr. 16 (Ringler + ).

*Swallows.* Purple Martins seem to be returning earlier every year. This spring's early arrivals included birds at Boonsboro on Mar. 17 (Doyles). Unfortunately these birds, which attempted nesting in April, were decimated by the cold rainy weather of the spring. Wierenga reported a large flight of Tree Swallows going past Fort Smallwood on Mar. 14. Wilson estimated 1,000 Tree Swallows at Chingville Reservoir in St. Marys County on Mar. 30 and Engle estimated 175 at Tanyard on Apr. 10. There were 4 Rough-winged Swallows at Lilypons on Mar. 26 (D. Wallace). Cliff Swallows are rarely seen in migration but suddenly appear at their nesting sites. This year a few were seen in passage. One was at Scott's Landing in Worcester on May 15 (John Trochet + ), 2 at Bestpitch in Dorchester County the same day (Wilkinson, Hammers), and 1 at North Point on May 30 (Ringler + ).

*Jays, Wrens, Kinglets.* The big flight of Blue Jays occurred during the period April 29 through May 1 with lesser flights being recorded on May 7 and 13. Mary Hall reported that Carolina Wrens completed construction of a nest in her shed on Folly Quarter Road in Howard County on Mar. 19 and there was one egg in it two days later. She believes that 5 young hatched on Apr. 15 or earlier. Sallie Thayer found Winter Wrens singing on territory on Backbone Mountain from May 23 on. A late Golden-crowned Kinglet was near Sunderland on Apr. 30 (Kraus) and a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was near Oakland on May 31 (Thayer).

*Thrushes.* At Annapolis the Melvilles banded 173 Swainson's Thrushes for the season including a daily high of 30 on May 24 and the last on June 5. A very late Hermit Thrush was banded at Adventure Sanctuary on May 24 (Donnald). Large flocks of American Robins moved through the state during March. These included birds at Elkton, 600 on the 5th (McCandless), Fort Frederick on the 9th (Keedy), Bray Hill in Garrett County on the 14th (Skipper), and Denton, 500 on the 25th (Fletcher).

*Mockingbird, Pipits, Shrikes.* Mark Wallace saw an albino Northern Mockingbird near Daisy in western Howard County on Apr. 7-11. The only numbers of Water Pipits reported were 50 near Elkton on Mar. 19 (McCandless) and 200 in southern Frederick County on Mar. 26 (Wilson). Michael Welch discovered the Loggerhead Shrikes at Lilypons occupying a nest on Apr. 17 and it was apparently successful. Another Loggerhead Shrike was at Tuckahoe State Park on Mar. 27 (Westre) and one at Hughes Hollow on Apr. 13 (Bonham).

*Warblers.* The first Golden-winged Warbler was reported at Beltsville on Apr. 30 (Sumner). A Brewster's hybrid was near Elkton on May 16 (McCandless) and Lawrence's hybrids were seen at Mechanicsville in St. Marys County on May 2 (Runkles) and on Backbone Mountain on May 23 (Thayer); the latter was singing like a Blue-winged Warbler. An early Nashville Warbler was at Westminster on Apr. 30 (Klockner). Late Chestnut-sided Warblers included a singing male near Bush River on May 29 (Ringler, Blom) and one at Patuxent River Park on May 30 (Hammers). The highest count of Yellow-rumped Warblers reported was 200 near Elkton on Apr. 29 (McCandless). The Hammers found an early Pine Warbler male feeding on snow-covered branches near Herrington Manor in Garrett County on Mar. 13 where they are rare at any season. Also early was one at a more likely location, Green Ridge in Allegany County on Mar. 5 (Simons). The high count of Palm Warblers was 8 in Kent County on Apr. 16 (Parks). A late Bay-breasted Warbler was at Denton on May 30



(Westre). **Blackpoll Warblers** appeared at several locations on the early date of Apr. 29 including 1 at Arnold (Klockner), 1 at Bowie (Feddern), and 2 at Fort Smallwood (Wierenga). A **Swainson's Warbler** was banded and photographed at St. Timothy's School near Stevenson in Baltimore County on May 24 (Ross +). A **Swainson's Warbler** was seen and heard singing there at least through the 28th. An early **Kentucky Warbler** was near Sunderland on Apr. 23 (Kraus). A male **Connecticut Warbler** was reported on Good Lion Road in Howard County on May 15 (Boone) and one was banded at Sandy Spring on May 21 (MacClintock). **Mourning Warblers** were widely reported this spring with the earliest being banded at Baltimore on May 15 (Barbers). Margaret Donnal and her crew banded 13 for the season at Adventure and the Melvilles netted one at Annapolis on June 5. Others were seen, all singing males, at Myrtle Grove on May 30, at Hoffman Mill Road in Carroll County on June 4 (Hammers), at another Annapolis location on June 5 (Mumford), and in Arnold on June 6 (Klockner). Sallie Thayer found 5 males and 1 female on Backbone Mountain on May 25. To round out this paragraph 8 species of warblers were seen on the May 14 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Naveen +).

*Buntings, Dickcissel.* Early **Indigo Buntings** were at Tolchester on Apr. 8 (Dave Bramble) and in Allegany County on the 17th (Twigg). A **Dickcissel** was banded at Baltimore on Apr. 29 (Barbers) and Dave Wallace found 8 in southern Frederick County on May 10 and later.

*Emberizines.* A **Red-crested Cardinal** remained in Rock Hall from Jan. 1 through at least Apr. 2 (Parks, Gruber +). There were 6 early **Savannah Sparrows** at Lilypons on Mar. 26 (D. Wallace); one in DC on May 22 (Czaplak) was a late migrant. The Hammers and others found 3 **Henslow's Sparrows** on Greenfield Road in southern Frederick County on May 21. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Chesapeake Beach on Apr. 16 (Kraus) was unusual. Klockner found **Seaside Sparrows** at Sandy Point from Apr. 23 through May 24 and Wierenga saw one at Fort Smallwood on May 4. An early **Lincoln's Sparrow** was in Prince Georges County on Apr. 28 (Gregoire) and another was banded in Baltimore on the next day (Barbers). Late bandings at Adventure included a **White-throated Sparrow** on May 27 and a **Dark-eyed Junco** on May 26 (Donnal). Another junco that had been banded as a hatching-year bird at Aberdeen on Nov. 29, 1979 by Barbara Bilsborough was found dead in Westfield, New Brunswick, Canada on Apr. 29 of this year.

*Icterines.* Notes on **Bobolinks** were 40 at Potomac on May 4 (Wilson), hundreds passing over Fort Smallwood on the same day (Wierenga), 100 + at the National Colonial Farm near Accokeek on May 7-8 (Nistico), and one singing male on Smith Island on May 29 (Joy Wheeler). The only count of **Rusty Blackbirds** reported was 60 in DC on Apr. 13 (Czaplak). Feddern noted that his last 2 wintering **Northern Orioles** were last seen on Mar. 20 at Bowie.

*Cardueline Finches.* Thayer saw the last **Pine Siskin** at her feeder near Oakland on May 2, and the last reported were 2 along the Potomac in Washington County on May 7 (Boone). Pat Harrelson reported that a **European Goldfinch** visited her feeder in Cape St. Claire on Apr. 17 and ate thistle seed for about an hour before departing. At Bray Hill in Garrett County on Mar. 14 there were 40 **Evening Grosbeaks** at Connie Skipper's feeder; the last remained through May 5.

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# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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As I approach the end of my third and final year as president, I would like to brag a little on the MOS. I think the MOS has a renewed sense of purpose and momentum, thanks to things like the revitalized spirit of the sanctuary organization which was kindled by George Kramer and nurtured and enlarged by Ben Poscover. The *Yellowthroat*, which was fledged by Dan Boone and is currently edited by Cam Lewis, has given the chapters a means of communication and helped to draw them together into a cohesive organization. There is also a statewide Breeding Bird Atlas, which was conceived in its present configuration by Danny Bystrak. This is shaping up to be the greatest birding extravaganza Maryland has ever seen and it promises to provide us with birding opportunities for the next five years. Lee Meinersmann accomplished a major revision of the bylaws, and Mildred Gebhard added another scholarship, in honor of Eleanor Robbins, to her list. There are also two new committees, the Records Committee and the Eagle Committee, and these are just some of the things that have been happening.

The MOS is a great organization because the basic attraction is wholesome and sound, and it continues to thrive because of the large number of dedicated people who keep it functioning smoothly. I am proud to pass it on to President Marty Chestem. She is a very widely travelled and competent birder, and I am confident that she will carry on the traditions of the MOS.

*John Cullom*

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 36th annual membership meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held at Delmar, Maryland on May 14, 1983. A quorum was on hand when President John Cullom called the session to order at 8:15 p.m. Following a motion by Mrs. Joyce, duly seconded and passed, reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting was waived.

Tribute was paid to the memory of Gordon MacGregor, our Treasurer for the past ten years, who died on March 27. Dr. Herriott was thanked for completing his term of office. The Treasurer's year-end report showed total assets of approximately \$99,000, distributed among three major funds. A motion was introduced by Mr. DuMont, seconded and approved, accepting the report, which will be published in the June 1983 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

Mr. Cullom expressed his appreciation to all who had contributed toward making his tenure of office pleasant and successful, especially the officers, Executive Secretary and committee chairmen. He cited major accomplishments: progress of the Sanctuary Committee under the able leadership of George Kramer and Ben Poscover; launching of the *Maryland Yellowthroat* as a unifying force



within the Society, with Dan Boone and Cam Lewis as editors; and the formation of the Records Committee by Jim Stasz, the Eagle Committee under John Gregoire, and the Atlas Committee chaired by Bob Ringler. Mr. Cullom voiced confidence in the new officers to carry on the good work begun.

The upward growth of the Society continues. Mrs. Cullom reported 2170 total paid memberships this year. She thanked chapter treasurers for their cooperation.

Chairmen of the standing committees presented their reports, which will be printed in the June 1983 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. A brief synopsis of each is given here:

*Auditing*-Rodney Jones. The Society's accounts have been reviewed and found to be in good order.

*Bluebird*-Larry Zeleny. The 1982 nesting season was successful in Maryland and most of the East. The North American Bluebird Society now numbers over 4,000 members. Greater participation is invited.

*Budget*-Emily Joyce. Next year's budget projects a deficit in two funds. Largely due to the addition of three new committees, a decrease of approximately \$3,000 is expected in the Operating Fund. To partially offset this shortfall, Mrs. Joyce presented a motion from the committee that dues be raised \$1 for individuals, \$2 for family memberships. The motion was seconded and passed. Because of several large planned expenditures, a deficit of approximately \$2500 is anticipated in the Sanctuary Fund. It was the committee's recommendation that a fund drive be held annually for the benefit of the sanctuaries.

*Bylaws*-Lee Meinersmann. A complete revision of the bylaws and a new manual of operations have been completed and approved by the Board of Directors. Main features are improved flexibility of operation and a greater voice in MOS management for the membership.

*Conservation*-Anneke Davis. This past year the Committee's efforts had three main thrusts—cooperation with the Long Range Planning and Sanctuary Committees to establish an acquisition policy for our sanctuaries; support for the Costa Rica national park system, where so many Maryland birds winter; and promotion of conservation-oriented legislation. Mrs. Robbins recommended that MOS members join the National Wildlife Federation and support issues publicized in their newsletter. Two telephone services provide information about environmental concerns—Audubon Hotline, 202-547-9017, and Clean Air Hotline, 202-547-5551.

*Convention*-Tony White. CDR White was commended for his excellent arrangements for this year's successful meeting, attended by 221 persons. The new bylaws permit greater latitude in planning for future conventions.

*Education*-Roger Herriott. A number of activities are planned for next year, including field trips for hawk identification, consolidation of several chapter junior nature camps, courses in basic ornithology and bird identification from songs, and encouragement of individual research projects.

*Library*-Joy Wheeler. The committee continues to work toward maintaining libraries at our sanctuary houses.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

There were no meetings of the members of the committee, though discussions were held about the placement of a bequest of books at Adventure Sanctuary. We are waiting to carry out these plans as soon as arrangements can be completed.

*Joy Wheeler, Chairman*

*Long Range Planning*-Joanne Solem. This committee is in the process of re-examining the goals established for MOS five years ago. Included are a long range plan for our sanctuaries, and ways of enhancing the public image of the Society. Suggestions from the chapters are welcome.

*Publications*-Chan Robbins and Cam Lewis. Publication of *Maryland Birdlife* and the *Maryland Yellowthroat* continues. Contributors to both our journal and newsletter are requested to get copy in on time, so schedules may be maintained.

*Records*-Bob Ringler. Largely because of the organizational efforts of Jim Stasz, this committee is now operational. Its aim is to document Maryland avian rarities as thoroughly as possible.

*Research*-Charles Vaughn. The next two issues of *Maryland Birdlife* will contain articles about projects sponsored by our grants. Call for applications for next year's awards will be published soon.

*Sanctuary*-Ben Poscover. The committee has many ambitious plans for the maintenance and growth of our sanctuary system. Committee Vice Chairman Paul Bystrak has resigned because of a job change. Dr. Poscover introduced a motion, duly seconded and passed, directing the President to express to Mr. Bystrak the Society's gratitude for his services and wish him well.

*Scholarship*-Mildred Gebhard. Scholarship winners were announced. To mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Helen Miller and the founding of the fund which bears her name, a second ornithology scholarship has been established, named the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. The committee proposes a fund drive to raise \$5,000, the interest from which will support this scholarship annually. The Baltimore Chapter has pledged \$1,500. A standing ovation was given to Chan and Eleanor Robbins, who anonymously endowed the Scholarship Fund 25 years ago, and have supported it financially through the years.

*Nominating*-John Malcolm. The following were nominated to serve as officers for the 1983-84 season: President, Martha Chestem, Howard Chapter; Vice President, Anthony White, Montgomery Chapter; Treasurer, Richard Cleveland, Montgomery Chapter; Secretary, Helen Ford, Anne Arundel Chapter. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion by Mrs. Farrell was received, seconded by Dr. Poscover and passed, electing these officers unanimously. A rising vote of thanks was given to John and Lettie Cullom, outgoing President and Executive Secretary.

Miss Chestem was impressed with the committee reports and the work so many members had performed quietly behind the scenes to make the MOS a viable organization. She accepted her new position, calling it an honor and challenge. She thanked the Howard Chapter for the reception given her, and the Culloms for their help.

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Vaughn's motion to adjourn was received, seconded and passed.

*Helen M. Ford, Secretary*

## MOS BLUEBIRD PROJECT

The MOS Bluebird Project continues to be closely integrated with the North American Bluebird Society, now starting its sixth year. The Bluebird Society now has some 4,000 members throughout most of the United States and Canada. About ten percent of the members reside in Maryland and include many MOS members.

The 1982 bluebird nesting season was quite successful in Maryland and in most parts of the East. Winter survival appears to have been excellent in most areas owing to favorable winter weather in most parts of the bluebirds' winter range. Although the stage was set for a banner 1983 nesting season in Maryland, this prospect was partially upset by the near record cold and rainy weather during nearly all of April. Delays in nesting and abandonment of early nesting attempts were common. These setbacks are now being largely compensated for as a result of more favorable May weather.

Evidence continues to accumulate that properly managed bluebird nesting box trails effectively reverse the long downward bluebird population trend in local areas. Much broader public participation in this effort is needed to assure the survival of the species in an increasingly hostile environment. This is the primary aim of our project and of the North American Bluebird Society.

*Larry Zeleny*

## 1983 CONVENTION SUMMARY

The 1983 Convention was held at Delmar, and had the "Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas" as its theme. About 250 members came to join in the fun and get some first hand experience in "atlasing." The usual field trips to Eastern Shore hotspots were supplemented by special Atlas survey trips to blocks near Delmar. Many possible and confirmed breeders were noted in the six blocks near the convention site. Even the pelagic trip out of Ocean City observed a yellowthroat carrying nesting material 30 miles out at sea. The Atlas committee is still trying to figure out how to record that bird. The emphasis on Atlas surveys did not reduce the variety of species seen, as over 198 species were tallied by the various convention field trips.

On Friday night, Dr. Charles Smith of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology gave us a talk on the importance of Atlases to the study of breeding bird distribution. He put his message to practical use by leading one of the field trips. On Saturday Rick Blom, the Maryland Atlas coordinator, gave us an informal report on the current status of the project. It was gratifying to hear that we were off to such a good start; however, a great many additional volunteers are still needed. His talk was followed by the Society's annual meeting, and Marty Chestem was elected our new president.

The convention was not all field trips and meetings. There was a lecture on bird photography and a bird carving demonstration. Above all there was time to meet with your friends and share the birds of the past year. The book-store did a land office business and sold their entire stock of Claudia Wilds' new book, "Finding Birds in the National Capital Region." Claudia, herself, was there on Saturday to autograph copies.

A good time was had by all. The 1984 convention will be held in Western Maryland where in addition to the camaraderie we will be able to enjoy new birds and new birding areas. See you there.

*Tony White, Chairman*

## BYLAWS COMMITTEE

After four years of labor and a changing committee, the new MOS Bylaws and Manual were completed and presented to the Board of Directors. They were approved at the last Directors' meeting in March. In the future, all changes in Bylaws will be submitted to the members for approval. The Manual, which is a procedural document supplementing the Bylaws, will still be the responsibility of the Board of Directors.

The main features of the change were that members were given greater voice in the management of the organization, and many operations were streamlined and made more direct. The Executive Council was reorganized to consist only of the top elected officers, and committee chairmen were placed on the Board of Directors, hence eliminating what were virtually two governing boards.

We believe the new procedures will work. Members who are interested in obtaining copies should contact Lettie Cullom. Any new Director should also contact Lettie, as previous officeholders already have their copies.

*Lee Meinersmann (Chairman), Helen Ford, Jim Cheevers*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee developed a tentative program, but each member was deeply involved in other activities and the program had to be placed in abeyance. The program included:

1. Field identification of hawks on trips in the fall to Fort Smallwood and to Monument Park in Washington County. Dates, leaders and meeting locations will be published in the Yellowthroat.

2. Consolidation of the several chapter Junior Nature Camps is under study to determine if this would improve the camp quality and at reduced cost.

3. An outline of a course in basic ornithology is being developed. Feather and wing structure, food preferences and nesting habitats will be discussed in such a course for beginners. One or more field trips are contemplated.

4. Bird identification from their songs is a feature that has not been fully emphasized and deserves a place in our program. Tapes and records will be selected and made the center of learning sessions for beginners or others if there is an interest in it.

5. Birders are encouraged to carry out even small research studies and to write them up for *Birdlife*.

Next year several or perhaps all the above activities will be introduced on a trial basis.

*Rober M. Herriott, Chairman*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

During the past year, this committee continued to work closely with the Sanctuary Committee. The chairmen of those committees, along with several other MOS representatives, met with delegates from The Nature Conservancy in January to discuss the long range land acquisition goals of our respective organizations.

This committee continues to be concerned with the Society's public image, though President Cullom has initiated several activities during his terms of office that should result in higher visibility for MOS over the next few years. Continuing efforts to increase our membership, obtain favorable and frequent publicity, and support environmentally sound legislation are essential to establishing our preeminence in the state.

Late last summer this committee was asked to consider the feasibility of an MOS-sponsored, statewide breeding bird atlas project. Long Range Planning strongly endorsed the concept along with the idea of partial financial support from the state MOS.

A second item referred to us was whether an MOS-sponsored bookstore should be established. This committee is withholding its recommendation until the ad hoc committee appointed by President Cullom has made its report.

The Long Range Planning Committee is beginning work on a set of five-year goals in order to update the 1978 report issued by this committee which established ten long range goals for the state organization. Suggestions from individuals as well as chapters are requested.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairman*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The Sanctuary Committee held regional meetings in the Western, Central and Eastern Areas, and also met with Mr. Robert Blake of The Nature Conservancy as directed by the Executive Board. Reports were sent to the *Yellowthroat*, and plans for revision of the *Sanctuary Bulletin* were established.

A Spring workday was held at Carey Run Sanctuary, a survey of sanctuary needs completed, budget projects for 1983-1984 identified, other projects identified through 1985.

Residency of Jim Stasz at Irish Grove was completed, workdays held in fall and spring, budget projects for 1983-84 identified, and other projects identified through 1986. The Atlas Project Director established residence at tum Suden Sanctuary under guidelines established by Harford Chapter, President Cullom and the Sanctuary Committee. Guidelines were incorporated into a formal lease signed by the Atlas Project Director, to be renewed annually. Emergency repairs completed included replacement of the water heater, repairs to the roof, and replacement of the carport roof. The sanctuaries without houses are all in excellent shape. The 1983-84 budget was constructed and submitted for approval.

*Barclay E. Tucker, Chairman*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again the Scholarship Committee has chosen winners for the four scholarships awarded annually for attendance at National Audubon Ecology Workshops. These winners were chosen from eighteen very worthy candidates.

Mr. Martin H. Brazeau, teacher at the Whiskey Bottom Road Elementary School in Howard County, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and has chosen to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

Mr. Edwin Lee Gosnell, biology teacher at Towson Senior High School, is also winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and has chosen to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

Ms. Corinne Auchenbach, Nature Interpreter at the Bureau of Recreation in Baltimore City, is winner of the Amateur Gardeners' Club of Baltimore Scholarship and has chosen to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in Wisconsin.

Mr. Joseph J. McCann, Director of Parks and Recreation in Anne Arundel County, is winner of the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship and has chosen to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

Through the generosity of MOS officers and members of the Board of Directors, a second scholarship for attendance at an ornithology workshop has been made available this year. The second scholarship enables us to honor both of the founders of our scholarship program and is to be known as the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee plans a fund drive to raise \$5,000, the interest from which should support this second ornithology scholarship on an annual basis.

This year the winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship is Paul Ford, undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, with a strong interest in birding and in the re-establishment of the Eastern Bluebird.

The winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship is Rick Holt, Maryland State Park Ranger, with a special interest in birding and community education in birding.

These two winners were chosen from a group of nine worthy candidates. Both have chosen to attend workshops in ornithology offered by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Again the Scholarship Committee wishes to thank all of our membership who have shown an active interest in our scholarship program. We are dependent on you for locating fine candidates for our scholarships and for your financial support and continuing interest in training young people who will return to the community and continue the education of present and future generations.

*Mildred E. Gebhard, Chairman*



## DIFFERENTIAL SELECTION OF CAROTENOID PIGMENTS IN A LEUCISTIC NORTHERN FLICKER

Floyd E. Hayes and William K. Hayes

Various plumage aberrancies occur somewhat regularly in the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). For example, Gross (1965a) and Ross (1973) recorded 19 accounts of albinistic or leucistic flickers, and Gross (1965b) reported at least two instances of melanism. Although much is known concerning the phenotypic expression of pigments in hybrid flickers (Short 1965), relatively little is known regarding the genetic mechanisms controlling pigmentation in anomalous colored individuals of this species.

Deane (1880) and Blankespoor (1982) both described leucistic Northern Flickers in which the melanin pigments were completely absent while the yellow flight feathers and undertail coverts and red nuchal patch were retained. As pointed out by Short (1965), these observations are good evidence for the separate genetic control of melanin and carotenoid pigments in flickers. Following Buckley (1982:65), these birds should be classified as non-melanistic leucistic.

On several occasions between April 1 and May 2, 1978, we observed a partially leucistic male Northern Flicker at Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland. Our field notes indicate the bird was white with dark bars on the back, a dark tail, black whisker stripes and a red nuchal patch. Soft part coloration appeared normal. The flicker often foraged with and courted a normal plumaged female; there were no indications of abnormal behavior.

The white feathers of the flicker apparently resulted from a loss of carotenoid pigments, primarily xanthophylls and to a lesser extent carotenes, which are responsible for the yellow coloration in flickers (Test 1942). The melanin pigments, however, were retained, again suggesting separate genetic control between carotenoid and melanin pigments. Our bird appears to have the opposite type of partial leucism described above, and could thus be classified as non-carotenoid leucistic (Buckley 1982:65). The retention of red coloration in the nuchal patch, produced by the presence of red carotenoids (Test 1942), further suggests separate genetic control between specific kinds of carotenoid pigments.

Although the differential selection of carotenoid pigments may have occurred in previous records of leucistic flickers, such birds are usually reported only as albinos and are seldom adequately described in the literature. We believe this note is of value in that only through the compilation of many similar observations can we hope to understand the genetic and pigmental bases of avian coloration.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE FALCONS OF THE WORLD

Tom J. Cade. Paintings by R. David Digby. 1982. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 192 p., 44 color plates, 30 maps, bibliography. \$38.50.

The name Tom Cade has been associated with falcons for a long time. For 5 years we Baltimoreans had a love affair going with our own peregrine, Scarlett, one of Cade's protege's from Cornell. Because of this we may have a limited view of the range of Peregrines worldwide, our attention being focused from the USF&G Building to Cornell, where Scarlett and all of her foster nestlings were hatched. This new book will assuredly widen our Peregrine horizons, taking us as far west as the Fiji Islands, as far south as the Falklands (Malvinas), as far north as the Bering Sea. There is little wonder that the word, "peregrinations", is linked to the habits of this bird, or that this bird's habits link it to the word. And we won't be limited to the story of Peregrines, fascinating as it is, but will be introduced to 39 species of falcons worldwide. Along with biological information on falcons in general, we'll get the historical treatment from the recent brush with DDT all the way back to the Pliocene beginnings from a smaller kestrel-sized bird found in the same African regions as the earliest hominids. Is this where falconry began?, wonders our author, an experienced falconer himself. Current prospects for survival of falcons are good, with the "intrinsic capacity of falcons to adjust to environmental changes and to reach some accommodation with man-dominated lands." Each of the 39 species is represented by full-page illustrations by noted British artist and falconer, David Digby. It will look great on your coffee table, but you won't leave it there untouched for long, for it's as readable as it is beautiful and informative. Our copy will be kept in the Cylburn MOS Bird Museum Library.

*Joy Wheeler*

## ONCE A RIVER

Bird Life and Habitat Changes of the Middle Gila; Amadeo M. Rea. 1983. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 285 p. \$24.50.

Consider the rivers of the southwestern part of our continent before European settlement: long, narrow, moist green ribbons through immense desertlands. The fertile flood plain soil cultivated by simple agriculture, possibly irrigated by rudimentary canals, produced ample crops for many small communities. Broad-leaved trees provided food and shelter for both humans and wildlife. The water table was high, replenished by seasonally heavy river flow, retained by the thick growth in the flood plain. Lands so favored with ever-running rivers and thick cover of woodland, narrow strips though they were, were abundant with bird life, the breeding birds of summer, migratory stop-overs, wintering flocks.

How do we know this? Amadeo Rea has used several sources to piece together the ornithological history of the Middle Gila River system, which includes the Gila, Salt, and Santa Cruz Rivers as they flow through the Gila River Indian Reservation, south of what is now Phoenix, Arizona. Writings of early Spanish explorers, oral history of Pima Indians and other tribes of the region, remains of painted ceramics, the 1907-1915 records of M. French Gilman, and the author's own 1963-1981 studies trace the interaction of human culture with the land, the results being measured in the changing bird populations. Indians had inhabited these river banks for generations with no apparent damage. Significant changes began to occur from the time of the first Spanish records, a very short time in the history of the Planet. Many of the changes, unnoticed as they were happening, are presently irreversible.

What did the Indians know that helped them preserve their homelands? Or was it what they didn't know? How to construct a railroad through miles and miles of open land to bring people seeking agricultural and grazing land, and to bring products to build cities with their insatiable demands for water was what they didn't know. What they did know was how to live in the desert land with its life-giving river without injuring the delicate balance between the two. Where fertile biomes once thrived, rivers now no longer run perennially with water, banks are gouged out by unchecked floods, weedy species of plants proliferate. Could the almost complete destruction of the river system have been foreseen? Could the forces contributing to its unrestrained abuse have been checked? There is nothing in the Pima Language or folklore to predict or ensure these things. Still existing in the language, though, is a wealth of Pima names and stories of long-legged shore birds, aquatic birds with wondrous fishing abilities, woodland birds gracing riverbank trees. All in flocks no longer to be found.

The author of *Once a River* has gathered enough material to establish a baseline study for the future as we consider the possibility of halting the desertification of the entire Southwest. My heightened interest in the historic accounts of its beauty and its birds gave way to despair over the seemingly hopeless condition of these rivers today.

*Joy Wheeler*

BIRDS IN FACT & LEGEND

Walter Harter, 1979, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., NY 10016, 128 pp. 10 drawings, index, \$5.95.

This small book (one of a series..."Dogs in Fact & Legend", etc.) would be handy to have, even if you have many scientific ornithological studies lined up on the shelf beside it. You know how your reputation as a birdwatcher makes you the target for the public's bird related questions. This book will not provide all the answers, but it does offer many facts in concise, readable form. Even for us sometime students of ornithology. There are some facts presented that heretofore may have escaped us: What is the Cain & Abel syndrome among eagles? What ungainly bird lays an egg one quarter its weight? Then there are the legends that grew up around birds before we were able to explain scientifically their often mysterious behavior: Why do sparrows hop? Were ravens ever white? How did the hummingbird lose its voice? These stories are fun to read and useful when leading a bird walk on an otherwise birdless day. You may be able to satisfy your group with flights of fancy instead. Our MOS copy is at Carey Run Sanctuary.

Joy Wheeler

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